

Message Text

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12

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, TZ, CASC

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH NYERERE: TREATMENT OF AMERICANS

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 4566; AND B) DAR ES SALAAM 4583

1. DURING OCTOBER 4 FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT NYERERE, I RAISED QUESTION OF THE IMPROPER ARREST AND DETENTION OF AMERICANS BY TANZANIAN POLICE AND MILITIA AUTHORITIES, CITING IN PARTICULAR SEPTEMBER 30 INCIDENT NEAR MBEYA (REPORTED REF A) IN WHICH FOUR AMERICANS WITH HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL WERE DETAINED, THREATENED, AND HUMILIATINGLY SEARCHED BY MILITIA AND POLICE WHO (UNJUSTIFIABLY) SUSPECTED THEIR BONA FIDES. I NOTED THAT, AS IN VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER CASES IN WHICH AMERICANS HAVE BEEN DETAINED, THEY HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE WITH MY EMBASSY DESPITE THE TERMS OF OUR CONSULAR AGREEMENT. I SAID THAT IT WAS JUST BECAUSE THE MBEYA INCIDENT WAS NOT AN ISOLATED ONE THAT I FELT I MUST CALL IT TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION.

2. NYERERE LISTENED INTENTLY AND SAID THAT THE MBEYA INCIDENT WAS SOMETHING HE QTE DIDN'T LIKE UNQTE.

3. I PROMISED TO SEND BERNARD MUGANDA, DIRECTOR OF EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (WHO WAS PRESENT AND TAKING NOTES AT THE MEETING) A MEMORANDUM ON THE MBEYA CASE AND HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY DONE SO.

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4. I EXPRESSED TO NYERERE MY CONCERN, THAT AFTER MORE THAN

THREE YEARS IN TANZANIA, THE ANTI-AMERICAN RHETORIC IN ALL TANZANIAN MEDIA IS LEADING THE AVERAGE TANZANIAN TO CONSIDER AMERICANS AS THE QTE ENEMY UNQTE, AND NOTED THE SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN THIS ATMOSPHERE AND THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF AND WITH HIS OFFICIAL FAMILY. I CITED THE MBEYA INCIDENT AS ONE EXAMPLE OF THIS HOSTILITY AMONG THE PUBLIC, AS WELL AS ANOTHER RECENT CASE WHEN TANZANIAN TROOPS DISPLAYED UNTOWARD QTE VIGILANCE UNQTE WITH REGARD TO AN EMBOFF WHO DROPPED OFF A HITCH-HIKING SOLDIER AT THEIR CAMP.

5. NYERERE COMMENTED THAT THE AMERICAN PRESS TENDED TO BE PRETTY HOSTILE TOWARDS TANZANIA ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN IT WAS MENTIONED AND USUALLY PORTRAYED IT AS TAKEN OVER BY THE CHINESE. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT TANZANIANS HAD AN EXAGGERATED SENSE OF QTE VIGILANCE UNQTE, BUT SAID IT WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS ALL FOREIGNERS, NOT AMERICANS IN PARTICULAR. QTE IT'S XENOPHOBIA, UNQTE HE SAID, QTE AND IT WORRIES ME A BIT. UNQTE HE ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL WHO WERE HOSTILE, BUT RATHER QTE THOSE THEY THINK THEY KNOW A LOT. UNQTE MAYBE, HE CONCLUDED, IT'S A PART OF GROWING UP.

6. COMMENT: I HAVE SENT MUGANDA A MEMORANDUM ON THE MBEYA INCIDENT WITH A COVERING LETTER POINTING OUT OUR SERIOUS CONCERN AT THE CONTINUING CHAIN OF INCIDENTS IN WHICH AMERICANS ARE MISTREATED BY SOME WORKING LEVEL TANZANIAN OFFICIALS, OFTEN IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO OUR CONSULAR AGREEMENT. I NOTED THAT THESE INCIDENTS APPEAR TO RESULT BOTH FROM THE FAILURE OF TANGOV TO INSTRUCT ITS OWN OFFICIALS PROPERLY, AND TO ATMOSPHERE OF ANTI-AMERICAN HOSTILITY NOURISHED BY LOCAL MEDIA.

7. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH MUGANDA AND OTHERS AS PART OF OUR ONGOING EFFORT TO INDUCE TANGOV TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH WILL ENSURE PROPER TREATMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AT ALL LEVELS.

CARTER

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